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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 /046 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3640

S E C R E T SAIGON 5803

EXDIS

SUBJ: OBSERVERS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR 860447
REVIEWED BY Sara Szulc DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SAIGON 5803 4-19-71

1. WHEN I SAW PRESIDENT THIEU ON APRIL 16, ACCOMPANIED BY BERGER, I DESCRIBED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN VIETNAMESE ELECTIONS AND MOVES TO TIE TO FAIR ELECTIONS. I RECALLED ACTIONS TAKEN BY GVN TO INVITE FOREIGN OBSERVERS TO 1967 ELECTIONS AND SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE TIMELY FOR HIM OR GVN TO MAKE A STATEMENT THAT GVN WOULD WELCOME OBSERVERS AGAIN, AND WOULD GIVE THEM EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE FAIRNESS AND HONESTY OF THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS. I SAID AMBASSADOR LAM MIGHT KICK OFF WITH AN INVITATION TO TCC COUNTRIES.

2. THIEU RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY SAYING THERE WOULD BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GVN WOULD WELCOME ANYONE FROM ANY COUNTRY WHO WISHED TO OBSERVE THE CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION ITSELF. THEY COULD STAY AS LONG AS THE MONTH-LONG CAMPAIGN, IF THEY WISHED. HE THOUGHT CERTAIN COUNTRIES MIGHT BE INVITED BY INVITATION, THAT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MIGHT WISH TO INVITE OTHER LEGISLATURES, THAT SOME ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION, ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION, THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR PEACE WITH FREEDOM IN VIETNAM, THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS, ETC; AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS, SHOULD ALSO BE INVITED.

3. HE ASKED IF WE COULD SUPPLY A LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHICH THE GVN AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MIGHT INVITE. (WITH HITCHCOCK AWAY AND POLITICAL SECTION UNDERGOING EXTENSIVE TURNOVER, WE ARE SHORT-HANDED ON EXPERIENCED PEOPLE AND I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD PREPARE SUCH A LIST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE -)
BERGER

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED